



DATE: March 6, 2025
TIME: 11:22 – 12:00 pm
LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

MD FIRST System Users Committee

Quarterly Public Meeting

• Members in Attendance

- Andrew Cummins, Officer, MNRP
- Bill Nutter (Wicomico Cty)
- Brad Russum (Kent Cty)
- Brian Wood (MDEM)
- Christine Hamrick (Queen Anne's Cty)
- Dave Christner (DNR)
- David Larsen (MDOT)
- Dave Tyler (Talbot Cty)
- Donnae Reedy (MDTA)
- Earl Erickson (FBI)
- Harold Taylor (Howard County)
- Irvin Church (DHS)
- Jack Markey (MDEM)
- James Hambright (US BLM)
- John Butts (NRP)
- Justin Hoyer (Adams Cty, PA)
- Justin Orendorf (GCEM)
- Mike Himmer (MDTA)
- Nate Ratnofsky (MoCo)
- Murray Hunt (NRP)
- Patrick Weber (Johns Hopkins PD)
- Phil Via (Allegany County)
- Randall Cunningham (Harford Cty)
- Rich Berg (MIEMSS)
- Rick Esenwine (Adams Cty, PA)
- Robert Larimer (Dorchester County)
- Shawn Haynes (ATF)
- Tim Perry (Wicomico Cty)
- Tom Gagnon (DHS/CISA)
- Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

- Troy Plutschak (Caroline County)
- Wayne Anderson (WSSC)
- Wes Rogers (CISA/ECD)
- Willy Gayle (SHA)

▪ **Board Support Staff in Attendance**

- Pat King (Chair)
- Norm Farley
- Brandon Renehan
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Jennifer Zambito
- Curt Andrich

Call to Order – 11:22 am

Review Minutes from 12/3/2024– Pat King

Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the December 3, 2024, meeting.

Moved – John Butts (NRP)

Second – Andrew Cummins (NRP)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain - 0

Questions/Comments on Updates Pertinent to the Users Committee – Patrick King

We expect to engage in some meaningful conversation with the new MD SWIC.

Old Business – Patrick King

No discussion

New Business

MD FiRST has four (4) portable service monitors. This saves time, when running tests on users radios.

Preventative Maintenance (PM): Most larger agencies provide their own PM, codeplug, firmware updates, and radio management. MD FiRST provides much of these services and support for some of the smaller agencies. The following information is important to MD FiRST interoperability and successful communication.

The most common PM issues MD FiRST team finds are:

- RID: multiple radios with the same RID. This does not work with multiple Zone Controllers. Use Radio Authentication to avoid having radios with the same RID.
- Make sure subscriber Firmware is current. Firmware cannot get updated remotely; this requires a radio tech to update in-person. Keep in mind, Radio encryption keys will be lost when updating Firmware older than R12.
- Antenna Choice and Integrity: SOG 0.01A makes user recommendations for antenna selection and use.
- Subscriber Battery Health(APX Portables):

- Follow and adhere to End-of-life battery guide.
- Order replacement batteries, have on hand for batteries that are at 90% and 5 years old.
- Old batteries that have not been used most likely will not be reliable unless they are fully charged every six (6) months.
- New batteries are shipped at 20% charge, new batteries should be fully charged when they arrive.

This committee would like to work with the MD SWIC in developing Operational Standards for MD FIRST Users.

Tony Clare will draft steps on how to upgrade to CTS RM version 35 00. It is a complicated work-around that he has been working on with Motorola.

Closing/Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was considered to adjourn the meeting.

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene prior to the next RCB meeting on June 5, 2025.

Moved – Tony Clare

Second – Phil Via

Yea – All

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Chairman of Committee APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)

William Gotschke King

6/5/2025

Director of Board APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)

Norman Farley

10/06/25